

GALLATIN GRUBBER

April 2018

May 7 Meeting

Legendary Bozeman gardener John Austin will speak on "Techniques for Short-Season Gardening" at our May 7 meeting, 7 pm, at the Hope Lutheran Church. John has gardened in the Gallatin Valley since 1982. He was associated with the Tinsley House pioneer and Native American gardens for 14 years, has won numerous ribbons at the Gallatin County Fair for outstanding vegetables, and has searched the world for varieties suited to our challenging climate. Last year he trialed 150 vegetable varieties in his garden, including 35 bean, 18 pea and 18 tomato varieties. Join us for an informative and fun program.

Refreshments: Kim Kotur, Don Heyden and Pat Donovan.

Arbor Day 4/27

On Friday, April 27 at 1 pm we will once again be planting two trees to celebrate Arbor Day. Jerry Cashman is organizing this event which will probably be at one of the newer local elementary schools. Stay tuned for details, but please put this date on your calendar.

April 2 Meeting:

Potatoes in the Home Garden

Our next meeting will be on Monday, April 2 at the Hope Lutheran Church on South 19th Ave. beginning at 7 pm. Dr. Nina Zidack, director of the Montana Seed Potato Program, will speak to us on "Growing Potatoes in the Home Garden." At MSU, Dr. Zidack is responsible for all aspects of seed potato certification, including summer field inspections, disease testing, maintenance of disease-free seed sources through tissue culture propagation and microtuber production, and winter post-harvest testing. She works closely with the Montana Potato Improvement Association and serves on its Board of Directors. She also cooperates with other faculty in Plant Science and Plant Pathology on plant disease diagnostics and integrated pest management, and the Plant Sciences Division of the Montana Department of Agriculture on potato disease issues and regulations affecting Montana growers. Needless to say, she is an expert on all things potato! She's a great speaker and will be fun to listen to.

Refreshments: Felix and Maggie Spinelli, Don Mathre, and Larissa Jackiw.

Market Garden Update

The onions that club members helped plant in February are now up and doing well and are getting a weekly trimming to make them robust for transplanting.



Onions, awaiting a haircut

We will have our next planting party on Saturday, April 14 at 9 am at the MSU Plant Growth Center to sow flats of broccoli, kohlrabi, kale, and cabbage. We will also have a planting party on April 28 to transplant tomato seedlings into 4 inch pots. These will later be transplanted into our high-tunnel greenhouse in mid-May. As always, stay tuned to your email for possible time and date changes!

Plant & Tool Sale May 26

Now is a good time to begin thinking about what you might be able to contribute to the club's Plant and Tool Sale, Memorial Day Weekend, Saturday, May 26. This could be garden tools that you no longer use, or it could be plants. Annual plants such as tomatoes and flowers sell well, as do perennial plants, especially various flowers and shrubs. We also need lots of boxes that our customers can put their plants into so be saving any of these you might have available. A size of 12" x 18" is about perfect but other sizes can also be used.

Bags and Sacks

We are still in need of a large number of plastic bags with handles that we use at the Farmers' Market. Make sure they are clean and stuffed into another plastic bag. Don Heyden is always looking for large paper grocery bags with handles that he uses for his iris sales. Bring these to any of our club meetings.

Summer Picnic July 9

We will have our annual summer picnic on Monday, July 9 so put this date on your calendar. Details will be in the June newsletter.

Remembering Bill and Paul

The club lost two good friends recently with the passing of Bill Burr, 87, and Paul Visscher, 94. Both were regulars at club meetings and reliable hands in the garden. Our MSU horticulture scholarships this year will be named in their honor.

Bill Burr: Bill was born on August 28, 1930 in Westport, CT and lived and worked in Connecticut most of his life. He earned college degrees in Agriculture and Business and served two years in the Army Medical Corps. His children wrote, "Dad loved gardening. He had the soul of a farmer. He loved all kinds of outdoor work. He was a driven do-it-yourself handyman, indeed, a frustrated carpenter, woodsman, and homesteader who insisted on doing any size job himself and with antiquated manual tools and equipment leftover from the bygone Burr Farms era of his childhood. He was not a verbose man and not one to seek public attention... He had a stoic charm that conveyed a genuine strength of character and integrity." Bill and his wife Marilyn moved to Bozeman in 2003 where Bill soon became an active volunteer in both the garden club and the food bank. We remember him as the helpful man who owned all the right tools. Bill died on Feb. 11.



Bill Burr

Dr. Paul Visscher: Paul was born Dec. 24 1923 in Baltimore, MD, and grew up in Cleveland, OH. After earning a degree in medicine at Western Reserve University in Ohio, Paul served as a doctor in the US Navy, including a stint with the Marine Corps in Korea. In 1954 the family moved to Bozeman. Paul practiced general medicine first with the college health service, and then in private practice. He later undertook further training in pediatrics at Johns Hopkins, then returned to practice in Bozeman where he was a much beloved pediatrician and well-known throughout the community. Club member Bonnie Hash recalled babysitting the Visscher children while Paul was completing his residency. He was an active ski and summer mountaineer, and an enthusiastic amateur rancher and beekeeper. He gardened for many years, continuing even after moving to Aspen Pointe. A tall and distinguished man, he was a striking figure when seen in the club garden or elsewhere. Paul died on Feb. 28.



Dr. Paul Visscher